



NANSEN REFUGEE AWARD

Celebrate Canada's 25th Anniversary of receiving the

NANSEN REFUGEE AWARD

To recognize our contribution to the cause of refugees around the world and in Canada, we - **the People of Canada** - were awarded the UNHCR's Nansen Refugee Award in 1986. Canada has been a leading supporter of international humanitarian and refugee aid programs and efforts. We also have one of the world's best records for resettlement of refugees.

Get Involved!

Write to your Member of Parliament about current issues affecting refugees in your community:

- For resettled refugees repaying transportation loans, call on the Canadian government to absorb transportation loans for refugees
- For refugees facing long delays in reuniting with family members, demand that refugees in Canada be immediately reunited with family members who are overseas.

Bust myths about refugees and immigrants in Canada

Celebrate the contributions of refugees and newcomers in your community

Check out the **Canadian Council for Refugees** for more ideas and information
www.ccrweb.ca

Refugee Rights Day 2011 Toronto Organizing Committee

Afghan Women's Organization, Amnesty International, Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture, Canadian Red Cross First Contact, CultureLink, Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood Centre, FCJ Refugee Centre, Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI), Quaker Committee for Refugees, Roma Community Centre, The Salvation Army—Immigrant and Refugee Services, Toronto Refugee Affairs Council

Planning of the 2011 Refugee Rights Day is supported by staff at the City of Toronto

*THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO
MADE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THESE
EVENTS*

**For details about Refugee Rights Day in
Toronto go to**

www.ocasi.org

**For more information, please contact Karen
Ko, Policy and Membership Assistant at
416.322.4950 ext. 247 or email
kko@ocasi.org**

Refugee Rights Day

April 4, 2011

**26th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SINGH DECISION**



Refugee Rights Day

Each year, Canadians celebrate Refugee Rights Day on April 4th to mark the **1985 Singh decision** and raise awareness about refugee protection and rights in Canada and around the world. 2011 marks the 26th anniversary of the Singh decision. It is also the 25th anniversary of the **Nansen Refugee Award** to the people of Canada, and the 60th anniversary of the UNHCR's Refugee Convention.

The **1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees** is the key legal document in defining who is a refugee, their rights and the legal obligations of states.



1985 Singh Decision

In a milestone ruling for refugee rights and protection in Canada, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled on April 4th, 1985 that the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects the rights of refugee claimants in Canada. These include the right to life, liberty and security of the person. It also recognized that refugee claimants have the right to an oral hearing as set out by the principles of fundamental justice. The Singh decision has profoundly changed the refugee determination system in Canada.

EVENTS

LAUNCH

Refugee Rights Day Proclamation & Art Show Opening

Mon. April 4
6pm
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St W

REFUGEE ART FAIR

Mon. April 4-Fri. April 8
All day
Toronto City Hall:
Rotunda
100 Queen St W

COMMUNITY FAIR

Mon. April 4-Fri. April 8
All day
Toronto City Hall:
Rotunda
100 Queen St W

FILM

From Far Away
(animation) &
Everybody's Children

Mon. April 4
4:30pm
Davenport Perth Neighbourhood Centre
1900 Davenport Rd

WORKSHOP *Refugee Reform and its Implementation* Wed.

April 6 1pm - 3:30pm
Toronto City Hall:
Committee Room 3
100 Queen St W
Presenter: Francisco Rico-Martinez, FCJ Refugee Centre

WORKSHOP
Private Refugee Sponsorship

Wed. April 6
4pm - 6pm
Toronto City Hall:
Committee Room 3
100 Queen St W
Presenters: Refugee Sponsorship Training Program

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE

WORKSHOP

Roma Refugees & the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB)

Thu. April 7
2pm - 4pm
Toronto City Hall:
Committee Room 3
100 Queen St W

Presenter: Gina Csanyi, Roma Community Centre

DEBATE

The Future of Refugee Rights in Canada

Please check
www.ocasi.org for
details and updates
for this event

Myth Busters

Myth: Refugee claimants are queue jumpers

False. There is no queue for refugees. International law guarantees people fleeing persecution the right to go to another country and seek asylum – that is why we have a refugee determination system. Different rules apply to refugees because their lives are at stake.

Myth: People who use smugglers are less likely to be refugees in need of protection

False. People fleeing persecution often have no choice but to turn to smugglers to escape. How people arrive in Canada tells us nothing about why they left. To decide if they need our protection we need to know why they left and what dangers they would face if they returned. We have a refugee determination system for this.

Get the Facts! Visit <http://ccrweb.ca> for more information